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June 28, 2005

Ms. Pamela J. Rasmussen  
Team Lead, Siting and Routing  
Xcel Energy  
P.O. Box 8  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

**RE: Acceptance of Xcel Energy's Application for a Route Permit Under the Alternative Permitting Process for the Eastwood 115-115 kV Transmission Line  
MEQB Docket #05-95-TR-Eastwood 115-115 kV**

Dear Ms. Rasmussen:

On June 14, 2005, Xcel Energy filed a Route Permit application with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) regarding the construction of a new 3.5-mile double circuit 115/115 kV transmission line connecting the existing Summit to Loon Lake 115 kV transmission line south to the Eastwood Substation in Mankato and Lime Townships in Blue Earth County.

MEQB staff has reviewed your application and has recommended that I find your application consistent with the requirements of Minnesota Rules, part 4400.1150, and that the application be reviewed pursuant to the Alternative Permitting Review process procedures in Minnesota Rules, parts 4400.2000-2950. Based upon the MEQB staff recommendation and my review, I am accepting this application with the understanding that, if additional information is requested by the MEQB staff, those requests will be addressed promptly.

Given the size and type of the proposed project, I have decided not to appoint a citizen advisory task force for this project.

Mr. David Birkholz will be the staff Project Manager for this project, and you may direct any future questions to him. Mr. George Johnson of the MEQB staff will serve as the Public Advisor for this project. We look forward to working with Xcel Energy to fully address any issues that may be raised in review of this application. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair  
Environmental Quality Board

